

Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During his stay on the border, he will make personal appearances in parades and other festival events. Official "welcome" receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, Texas, and the cities of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Alberto Vazquez for being honored with this special award.

THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION
OF NEW JERSEY: 125 YEARS OF
HONORING THE MEMORY OF
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
IN NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Washington Association of New Jersey. As the keepers of the Ford Mansion, also known as Washington's Headquarters, and the guardians of Morristown National Historical Park, the support of the Washington Association and its members has been extraordinary. This year, the Association celebrates its 125th year of service to honoring the memory of George Washington and preserving Washington's Headquarters and the park's historical sites for future generations.

The Ford Mansion, built in Morristown between 1772–74, was the home of Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr., a landowner, iron manufacturer and ardent patriot of Morris County. As Colonel of the Eastern Battalion of New Jersey's militia forces, Jacob Ford participated in the first Battle of Springfield. However, shortly thereafter, he fell ill with pneumonia and died on January 10, 1777. Even so, Colonel Ford's widow, Theodosia, who was left with five children, offered the mansion to General George Washington to use as his headquarters during the very harsh winters of 1777 and 1779–80 in New Jersey. Unlike the areas of New Jersey nearer to New York City, Morristown had fewer loyalists and its surrounding hills provided natural defenses for a winter refuge where the next summer campaign could be planned. In addition, the Continental Army and various militias could be maneuvered quickly to either Manhattan or Philadelphia from their primitive and difficult encampment at Jockey Hollow.

In this grand home, Washington, along with his aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, would lay out the strategy for much of the Revolution's greatest campaigns. At a tall secretary desk, which still graces the mansion, Washington penned some of the most important letters of the Revolution. Some of the greatest heroes of the war, including the Marquis de Lafayette, General Schuyler, General Greene, General Knox, and even the infamous traitor General Benedict Arnold, walked through the Ford Mansion's front door and graced Martha Washington's wartime dining room with their conversations about victory, defeat and the battles yet to come. It has been said that under the Ford Mansion's roof have been gathered more figures known to the military

history of our Revolution than any other house in America. It is no wonder that Morristown is considered the Military Capital of the Revolution.

Nearly a century later, the Washington Association of New Jersey was founded in Morristown in June of 1873, in order to save the Ford Mansion as it was offered for sale by the heirs of Colonel Ford's grandson, the Honorable Henry Ford. Four New Jersey gentlemen, former Governor Theodore F. Randolph, William Van Vleck Lidgerwood of Morristown, and George A. Halsey and General Norris Halsted of Newark, were responsible for leading this great effort. The Association was chartered by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature on March 20, 1874 as a stock-granting corporation in New Jersey.

The Association maintained the Ford Mansion in Morristown until 1933, and in the process accumulated a remarkable collection of Revolutionary War memorabilia. Through the influence of the Washington Association, Mayor Clyde Potts of Morristown and Mr. Lloyd Waddell Smith, member and sometime president of the Association, the Ford Mansion was donated to the Federal government on March 2, 1933, creating Morristown National Historic Park, the nation's first historic park. Also included in the park were Fort Mifflin in Morristown and certain parcels of land in Jockey Hollow where the troops were encamped during the horrible winter of 1779–80.

Today, the Washington Association of New Jersey supports Morristown National Historic Park by acquiring rare books and manuscripts pertaining to the Revolution or George Washington, contributing financially to the park and, by Federal statute, is the official consultant to the National Park Service in Morristown. The Association also acts as an advocate for the park when the property is threatened by any inappropriate development.

In 1998–99, the Washington Association of New Jersey will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its foundation and incorporation. Planned activities include updating and reprinting "A Certain Splendid House" (the history of the Ford Mansion), publication of a scholarly catalog on "War Comes to Morristown", the new, permanent exhibit at Washington's Headquarters Museum, a lecture series which will bring distinguished scholars into Morristown, and the eventual expansion of Washington's Headquarters Museum so that more of the 400,000 items in the collections at Morristown can be properly exhibited.

Although the mansion is now part of a National Historic Park, the Association's work is appreciated most by the residents of Morris County. Washington's Headquarters, as it is called by most, is the Town of Morristown's common denominator. It is what the people of Morristown identify themselves with, what they remember most when they leave and the first thing they want to see when they return. It is our public treasure and the Washington Association of New Jersey is its entrusted guardian.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I salute the Washington Association of New Jersey on the occasion of their 125th anniversary and for their great work in preserving our nation's first National Historic Park, the memory of our nation's greatest citizen and Morristown's most famous and dearest house.

AGRICULTURE EXPORTS AND
TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution regarding trade between the U.S. and the European Union. Recent news reports indicate that the Administration may be considering concluding a trade agreement with the EU that would not include agriculture. Given the difficulties that American agricultural exports face in gaining access to the EU market, it is unthinkable that any cross-sector agreement with the EU would exclude agriculture. This resolution calls on the Administration to actively pursue eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by the EU on U.S. agricultural exports. This resolution also cautions the Administration against engaging in trade negotiations that might undermine the ability of the United States to have a level playing field for American producers.

American agriculture is more than twice as reliant on exports as the overall economy, and thus the American farmer is hurt the most by unfair barriers to market access. This is especially true with the European Union, where barriers to U.S. agriculture products remains the most vexing problem in our commercial relationship. The EU has shown relatively little progress in liberalizing trade in agriculture between our two markets. The EU has failed to comply with a WTO ruling which overturned an EU ban on hormone-treated beef from the U.S. The EU has failed to implement the bilateral agreement on veterinary equivalence standards and EU subsidies continue to distort market prices. U.S. farmers are the most efficient and productive in the world and they deserve our every effort to pry open foreign markets and tear down unfair barriers to market access.

Mr. Speaker, if U.S. agriculture exports are to continue growing at the present rate, the U.S. government needs to be more aggressive in eliminating barriers to trade around the world. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, last week on February 4th during Roll Call Vote No. 7, on H.J. Res. 107, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

I ask unanimous consent that the record reflect this.

MEL McLEAN: EXAMPLE OF THE
AMERICAN DREAM

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of my colleagues to Mel McLean of Humboldt

County, California. Described as a moral, caring and generous man by residents in the community of Fortuna and the Northern California County of Humboldt, Mr. McLean is an example of the American Dream.

Mel McLean still greets visitors with a twinkle in his eye and a firm handshake, despite a stroke that limited his speech 11 years ago. That's appropriate for a man who, for many years, sealed important deals with little more than a handshake.

Though he is known locally as a philanthropist, Mel got where he is today by hard work, despite setbacks along the way. He started his career in logging more than 50 years ago with various jobs in the woods. In 1938, he and a partner contracted to run a tie mill just following his marriage in 1937 to Grace, his close friend and companion for over 50 years before her death in 1989.

The young couple struggled through the Depression, even hauling away logs discarded by the loggers. They peeled the bark off by hand and sold it for 35 cents a truckload. Beans and potatoes were their supper most nights.

In 1946, Mel and another partner became involved in the grocery business, a venture that grew to include four stores. Two years later he moved his timber business to Humboldt County and formed a partnership named Lindsey Lumber Company. They bought the East family sawmill and the logging operation at the Bar W Ranch near Bridgeville, hiring 15 men.

In 1950, a fire destroyed the mill, so they moved to McCann. The company grew to own 10 tie and stud mills, and built a planing mill at McCann. The planing mill was destroyed in the 1955 flood, but they rebuilt it and continued operations. In 1958, he and his partner bought another sawmill just north of Rio Dell. This was the beginning of Eel River Sawmills.

To keep an eye on his diverse interests, Mel became a pilot. His wife, Grace, usually accompanied him on these trips. The couple enjoyed visiting other countries, but their hearts were with the people of the Eel River Valley.

Mel McLean believes strongly in seeing that residents of the Eel River Valley have jobs. He has proved that several times by rebuilding instead of just walking away from the disaster. When fire destroyed two-thirds of the mill in 1961, he rebuilt immediately, using the sawmill employees in the reconstruction so that not one man lost his job.

The company incorporated in 1963 and built a new planing mill. It had about 90 employees, up from 33 in 1961. The following year was a good one and saw the addition of a new debarker and a new chipper plant. Then came the Christmas flood of 1964. More than 8 million board feet of logs and 5 million feet of lumber went down the river, along with most of the mill.

This gave them a choice, according to Grace McLean in a 1989 interview. "It was either go down the road with a sack on our back, or hard work and start it over again."

For Mel, the answer was clear. The men of the Eel River Valley deserved jobs, and he would provide them. The company reopened and had men back on the payroll in 3 to 5 months.

By 1979, the company had added mills in Redcrest and Alton. And in early 1987, the company added the Fairhaven power plant on the Samoa peninsula, utilizing waste products from the mills to produce clean energy. In

1989, the McLeans took another step in looking out for their employees when they set up an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Under the plan, the employees will eventually own the company.

Mel McLean wants to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Eel River Valley. He has made, and continues to make, generous donations to local groups, schools and organizations. He always treats his employees fairly and the respect between him and the workers is evident whenever McLean tours the plant. He always lets each man know he is important and leaves the impression that the entire staff is his extended family.

On February the 12th, 1998, Mel McLean will be honored and named to the Republican Hall of Fame in the Humboldt as a devoted advocate of Conservative causes. The honor is well deserved for his generous and fair spirit. We wish him many years of continued and rewarding accomplishments.

HOMAGE TO VARIAN FRY, A REAL AND UNLIKELY HERO

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Varian Fry was one of the greatest, albeit one of the most unrecognized, American heroes of the twentieth century. As a young relief worker in Vichy France during the early years of World War II, he responded to the onslaught of Nazi persecution with a degree of bravery which stands out even when compared to the courage of other noble men and women who resisted German oppression. Fry led a small group of American liberals in creating the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC), an organization dedicated to using every means at its disposal to help political and intellectual refugees escape from Nazi-dominated France. The ERC operated for two years, from the fall of France in 1940 until its offices were forcibly shut down in 1942, and its work saved the lives of at least 2,000 talented scholars, artists and leaders, including such cultural luminaries as Marc Chagall, Hannah Arendt and Max Ernst. Fry's actions led to the founding of the International Rescue Committee after the war.

Varian Fry's lifesaving efforts are all the more remarkable in light of fierce opposition not only from the pro-Fascist Vichy government, but also from resentful American consular officials. As a result of this antagonism, Fry's heroism went unrecognized in his lifetime. He died in obscurity over thirty years ago.

Varian Fry's contributions have been recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust, where he stands as the only American honored as a "Righteous Gentile." Mr. Speaker, it is long past due for the American government and the American people to pay tribute to this heroic champion of human rights. I would like to enter into the record a touching and inspiring review of Fry's autobiography, *Surrender on Demand*, written for "The New Republic" by Alfred Kazin. I would also like to invite my colleagues to attend *Assignment: Rescue, The Story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee*, a moving exhibit which will be featured at The

Jewish Museum in New York through March 29, as well as *The Varian Fry Celebration*, which will be on display at the San Francisco Main Library after March 8.

[From the New Republic, Feb. 9, 1998]

A REAL AND UNLIKELY HERO—HOMAGE TO VARIAN FRY

(By Alfred Kazin)

The Armistice with Nazi Germany that France had to sign in June 1940 contained a clause, Article XIX, obliging the French Government to "surrender upon demand all Germans named by the German government in France, as well as in French possessions, colonies, Protectorate Territories, and Mandates." "Germans" originally meant all inhabitants of the greater German Reich—Germans, Austrians, Czechs, and many Poles—but by 1940 it meant every political opponent whom the Nazis wanted to get their hands on. There were American relief organizations in France sponsored by the YMCA, the Unitarians, and the Quakers. But a group of American liberals, outraged by the Nazis' open violation of the right of asylum, formed the Emergency Rescue Committee to bring political and intellectual refugees out of France before the Gestapo and the Italian and Spanish Fascist police caught them in what their rescuer Varian Fry was to call "the most gigantic man-trap in history."

The volunteer (there were not many) whom the Committee chose to direct this effort from Marseille was Varian Fry, a 32-year-old Harvard-trained classicist perfectly at home in Europe. Indeed, on the surface, with his elegant name and his precise manner, he may have seemed just a little too refined. With his classmate Lincoln Kirstein, he had founded the pioneer journal of modernism *The Hound and Horn*. When I met him at *The New Republic* after the war, he liked, on our many walks, a little affectedly, to show off the little dogtricks that he had taught his French poodle Clovis, whom he had named after the ancient king of the Franks. But Varian was at heart so pure and intense a democratic conscience that he could not bear the lingering Popular Front sentimentality about Stalin on *The New Republic*; and he resigned from the magazine in 1945, just before Henry Wallace took it over.

In fact, for thirteen months in France, Varian was our own Scarlet Pimpernel. He was endlessly bold and resourceful in the always correct manner that was natural to him. And he was forced to leave France because his labors on behalf of Jews and political refugees had enraged both Vichy's pro-Fascist bureaucrats and reactionary American consular officials. Varian was one of the great civilian heroes of the war. In the face of the most maddening bureaucratic slights, delays, and hostilities presented by Vichy France, Franco's Spain, and the American consul in Marseille (he finally got the French to expel Varian), my friend organized from a room in the Hotel Splendide the ramshackle yet somehow effective organization that helped to get virtually 2,000 people to safety. Varian is the only American honored as a "Righteous Gentile" at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the Holocaust.

Surrender on Demand, Varian's wonderful account of his noble adventure in France, his "story of an experiment in democratic solidarity . . . of illegal work under the nose of the Gestapo," was first published without much effect in 1945, and it has now been brought back into print in conjunction with the splendid exhibition "Assignment: Rescue, The Story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Rescue Committee" at the Jewish Museum in New York. The museum has also enclosed in its press kit Varian's essay "The Massacre of the Jews," which appeared in